

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 /054 W

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R 131547Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 307

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1212

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ZA, US

SUBJECT: TAW

1. PRIME MINISTER MAINZA CHONA TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR JUNE 13 TO REGISTER OBJECTIONS TO TOM WOOD'S TACTIC OF "GOING ABOUT TOWN SPEAKING CONFIDENTLY OF WINNING HIS CASE AGAINST GRZ." SAID ZAMBIA DESIRED AMICABLE SETTLEMENT OUT OF COURT AND APART FROM ARBITRATION. HOPED WOOD WOULD RESPECT CHAIN OF COMMAND IN ZAMBIAN BUREAUCRACY AND DEAL AT LEVEL OF PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF POWER, TRANSPORT AND WORKS, CABINET SECRETARY, OR SECRETARY CONTINGENCY COMMITTEE. SAID GRZ WILLING PURCHASE ALL 62 TRUCKS IN ZAMBIA BUT WOOD CREATING PROBLEMS ON SOME OF THESE AND PRIME MINISTER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIGH PRICE OF SETTLEMENT.

2. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT CHONA'S PHONE CALL DELIBERATELY TIMED WHILE PRESIDENT KAUNDA OUT OF COUNTRY SO THAT PRIME MINISTER COULD CLAIM ON HIS RETURN MATTER DE-ESCALATED TO PROPER BUREAUCRATIC LEVEL (OVER WHICH CHONA HAS CONTROL) AND WITH EMBASSY INFORMED, THUS NO NEED FOR PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION.

3. WE PASSED ADVICE AS GIVEN "BY VERY HIGH GRZ AUTHORITY" (AS REQUESTED) TO WOOD WHO TELLS US HE INVITED BY SOLICITOR GENERAL TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS SOONEST ON SETTLEMENT. SAYS ADVICE FROM "ZAMBIAN AUTHORITY" INACCURATE. HIS REQUESTS TO DEAL WITH SECRETARY TO CABINET CHISANGA HAVE REPEATEDLY BEEN REFUSED.

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4. WE BELIEVE WOOD MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED TO HOLD OUT FOR
RESPONSE TO HIS DIRECT APPEAL TO PRESIDENT, WHILE COOPERATING
ON NEGOTIATION, AND WILL SO HINT TO HIM AT NEXT MEETING.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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